

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed January 28, 2003 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 1-12 remain pending in this case, with claims 1 and 7 being the independent claims. Claims 1 and 7 have been amended. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as herein amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,625,780 to Hsieh et al. ("Hsieh") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,021,234 to Van Deventer ("Van Deventer") and U.S. Patent No. 6,144,561 to Cannella, Jr. et al. ("Cannella").

First, as regards claims 1 and 7, there would have been no motivation for the proposed combination, at least because Hsieh is directed to PC applications (col. 1, line 23: "personal computers"). It would not have been obvious to equip a PC with optical transceivers, which typically contains both light-emitting diodes (LEDs) or lasers and photodetectors such as photodiodes. Fiber optics do not extend into the home. Van Deventer is a network application. Likewise, Cannella relates to network applications such as headend equipment.

Second, even if the purported combination were to be deemed properly motivated, the combination fails to disclose "a plurality of switch connectors positioned on a front surface of said switch motherboard" and "the optical transceiver board having a transceiver connector for connecting to a different one of said switch connectors . . ." as explicitly required by the language of claim 1. Hsieh shows slots 12 in FIG. 1, which item

4 of the Office Action purports to be "switch connectors" as cited in claim 1. Cannella shows in FIG. 2 a circuit module 18 with an electrical connector 22 and a second module signal connector 24. Even if the combination has the Cannella connector 22 or 24 as what claim 1 recites as the "transceiver connector" fitted into the Hsieh slot, that connection is fixed, and the combination fails to feature a "transceiver connector for connecting to a different one of said switch connectors."

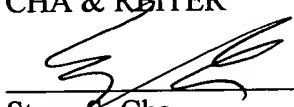
For at least the above reasons, claims 1 and 7 would not have been obvious over Hsieh in view of Van Deventer and Cannella. Claims 2-6 and 8-12 depend from and therefore include all of the limitations of base claims 1 and 7 and are likewise deemed to be patentable over the prior art of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned in the event of any perceived outstanding issues so that passage of the case to issue can be effected without the need for a further Office Action.

In the event that any additional fee is required to continue the prosecution of this Application as requested, please charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 502-470.

Respectfully submitted,

CHA & REITER

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Date: 4/16/03

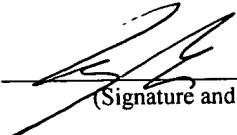
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(Name of Registered Rep.)

 4/14/03
(Signature and Date)

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS SHOWING CHANGES

Please amend claims 1 and 7 as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) An optical cross-connect device, comprising:
at least one shelf having a plurality of guide rails ;
a switch motherboard disposed at a rear end of said shelf;
at least one electric crosspoint switch disposed on an outer surface of said switch motherboard;
a plurality of switch connectors positioned on a front surface of said switch motherboard; and,
a plurality of optical transceiver boards mounted along said guide rails of said shelf, ~~said~~the optical transceiver board having a transceiver connector for connecting to a different one of said switch connectors positioned on the front surface of said switch motherboard.

7. (Twice Amended) An optical cross-connect device, comprising:
at least one shelf having a plurality of guide rails running in parallel thereon;
a switch motherboard disposed at a rear end of said shelf;
at least one electric crosspoint switch disposed on an outer surface of said switch motherboard;
at least one array of switch connectors disposed on the outer surface of said switch motherboard; and,

a plurality of optical transceiver boards slidably mounted along said guide rails of
said shelf to enable ~~said~~the optical transceiver board to be electrically coupled to one of the
plurality of said switch connectors.